

ABSTRACT

A method for treating water for fine suspended solids, such as those found in roadway runoff and urban stormwater, construction site erosion or runoff from sites where resource extraction and industrial activities are conducted. Said method consisting of confined exposure to a living colony of the North American native aquatic plant, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, as a means to induce flocculation and thereby allow settling and removal of the accumulated solids. In a preferred embodiment, a means of confining the water with the plant material for treatment is provided in the form of an open tank or pool providing for a water depth of 1 meter or less. In a preferred embodiment of the method, the water is confined with a mature living plant colony which substantially covers the surface of the water, forming a dense floating matt. In a preferred embodiment of this method, the confined exposure of the water with the plant colony is maintained for 24 hours or more.